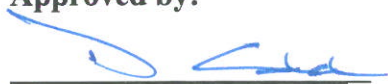


UPPER AND LOWER RAUSH PROTECTED AREAS

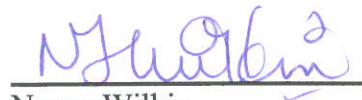
PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN Omineca Region 2005

Approved by:



Don Cadden,
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division
Omineca Region

Date: Nov. 4th 2005



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Oct. 31 2005

Lower and Upper Raush Protected Areas Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Lower and Upper Raush Protected Areas are two distinct and separate protected areas located in proximity, and similar in character. These protected areas preserve portions of an undeveloped, relatively pristine watershed on the southwest side of the Fraser River, just south of McBride in the Robson Valley.

As part of the Cariboo Mountains Ecosection, these protected areas contain four biogeoclimatic subzones. Dominating the valley floor in the Lower Raush is Sub-boreal Spruce dry hot variant (SBSdh). Upslope in both the Upper and the Lower Raush a rare and under-represented Interior Cedar-Hemlock moist mild (ICHmm) variant exists. Higher yet, Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir moist mild (ESSFmm1) melds into Alpine Tundra (AT). The Lower Raush protects excellent riparian wildlife habitat, while the Upper Raush protects a variety of biogeoclimatic subzones.

The Lower Raush Protected Area covers an area of 1279 ha in the lower stretch of the Raush River between 4 and 8 km upstream from the confluence with the Fraser River on the western bank. The Upper Raush Protected Area, covering 5582 ha, contains most of Quanstrom Creek, and about 7 km along the Raush including the river, riparian area with pockets of wetland, and the steep, rugged western slopes to the height of land.

The alpine and subalpine areas of the Raush River are extremely important for mountain goat populations. The valley bottom is important winter range for moose and deer and provides summer range for bear and other species. Grizzly bear densities are moderate to high through the lower-to-upper forested slopes.

The meandering lower Raush River provides very important riparian habitat for bird nesting, non-fish aquatic species, and high value fish habitat. There are salmon spawning sites a few km downstream of the Lower Raush Protected Area near the Fraser River. It is most likely that native species such as bull trout, rainbow trout and mountain whitefish are found within both the Lower and Upper Raush Protected Areas.

There are no aboriginal sites identified in these protected areas. The Secwepemc Nation has identified the Raush River as generally having historical significance within their traditional territory. The Canim Lake Band has noted the Raush Valley as a historic travel corridor into the Robson Valley.

There is no road access to either of these protected areas or facilities of any kind. There is an old road on the east side of the Raush River, on private land, and access permission from the owner must be obtained. There is limited recreation use for viewing, boating and hunting.

The Lower Raush Protected Area supports some jet-boating from the Fraser River. The river could also support canoeing use if road access and launch sites were improved. Hunters have historically used this river system and its surrounding lowlands. With rugged mountains and extensive glaciers, the Upper Raush Protected Area offers high visual quality, and back-country tourism potential has been identified on the east flanks of Mt. Quanstrom, partially within this protected area. The primary activity at present is heliskiing with the tenure held by Canadian Mountain Holidays (McBride).

The Protected Areas Strategy recommended protection of Upper Raush Protected Area for Goal 1 values, providing representation of the moist mild Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICHmm) and moist mild Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir (ESSFmm1). Lower Raush Protected Area was proposed as a Goal 2 Area of Interest for an example of transition from Interior Douglas-fir to Sub-Boreal Spruce, and for biogeoclimatic zone representation. These two areas were recommended for protection by the Robson Valley LRMP, approved in April 1999.

Primary Role

The primary role of these two protected areas is to provide significant representation of moist, mild Interior Cedar - Hemlock (ICHmm) and dry hot Sub-Boreal Spruce (SBSdh1) biogeoclimatic subzones otherwise poorly protected. These protected areas represent typical forest of side valleys of the Rocky Mountain Trench in a relatively pristine watershed of the Cariboo Mountains.

Secondary Role

The secondary role of these two protected areas is to protect special natural and recreation features of a tributary valley to the Fraser River including aquatic and riparian habitat, and a navigable watercourse.

Known Management Issues	Response
Access management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for future forestry road access through these Protected Areas was a condition of designation (future location unknown). If roaded access does proceed, work with industry to minimize and mitigate actual and potential impacts of road corridor on natural and recreation values. • Plan to reclassify PA as Park when road corridor is no longer necessary.
Existing Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honour existing guiding, range and trapping tenures (trapping tenure to be purchased as available) • work with Fish Wildlife Resource Allocation to assure guiding & trapping meet PA objectives;

Known Management Issues	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with MOF Range to ensure range use meets PA objectives • For heliskiing, minimize the number of logged helpads by using natural openings where possible and where necessary allowing minimal tree falling for safe helicopter landing
Forest Health	Monitor as required. Action will only be undertaken if consistent with current Mountain Pine Beetle Strategy and Assessment Framework.
Adjacency Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The east slopes along the Lower Raush River remain in the operable forest. 	BC Parks will communicate comments during development of any resource plans which may impact the protected areas.
Lower Rausch identified as suitable location for pipeline corridor. Does this need to be addressed?	

Zoning

The Lower Raush has been zoned Nature Recreation (to protect scenic values and provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment).

The Upper Raush has been zoned Wilderness Recreation (to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment as well as to protect significant wildlife habitat).

CONSERVATION

Representation

- Ecosection **X** Minor representation of Caribou Mountains (CAM) by Upper Raush (1.05% of area protected provincially), and Lower Raush (.24% of area protected provincially). This ecosection is well represented (38% protected) provincially.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant **X** Significant representation of the rare ICHmm (less than 3% protected province-wide):
 - Upper Raush – 22.05% of provincial protection.
 - Lower Raush – 14.28% of provincial protection
Contribution towards representation of underrepresented SBSdh1 (only 1.67% protected provincially):

- Lower Raush – 11.86% of provincial protection Contribution towards representation of ESSF mm1(12.99 % protected provincially)
 - Lower Raush – 1.10% of provincial protection
 - Upper Raush - 4.72% of provincial protection
- Very minor contribution towards representation of AT, which is 22.5% protected across the province:
- Upper Raush - .06% of provincially protected
 - Lower Raush - .005% of provincially protected

Special Feature X Special natural and recreation features of the Cariboo Mountains Ecosection; a relatively pristine watershed, aquatic and riparian habitat. Grizzly bear and mountain goat habitat.

Rare/Endangered Values X Grizzly bear; other values not inventoried

Scientific/Research Opportunities

RECREATION

Representation:

- backcountry
- destination
- travel corridor
- local recreation

X Popular for jet-boating (Lower Raush) and hunting by residents of Robson Valley

Special Opportunities

Education/Interpretation Opportunities

X A transitional area between ecoprovinces and biogeoclimatic zones; aquatic and riparian habitat

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Representation

Special Feature No sites identified

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Other Designations

Relationship to X Supplements protection of:

Other PAs

- ICHmm, which is primarily protected (60.2% of provincial protection) within Mt. Robson Park
- SBSdh1, protected by Jackman Flats and Mt. Robson (57.5% and 26.25% of provincial protection respectively).

Complements West Twin Provincial Park and Protected Area in protecting natural and recreational values of a tributary drainage of Fraser River

**Co-operative
Management
Arrangements**

Partnerships

Vulnerability

**Relationship to
Other Strategies**

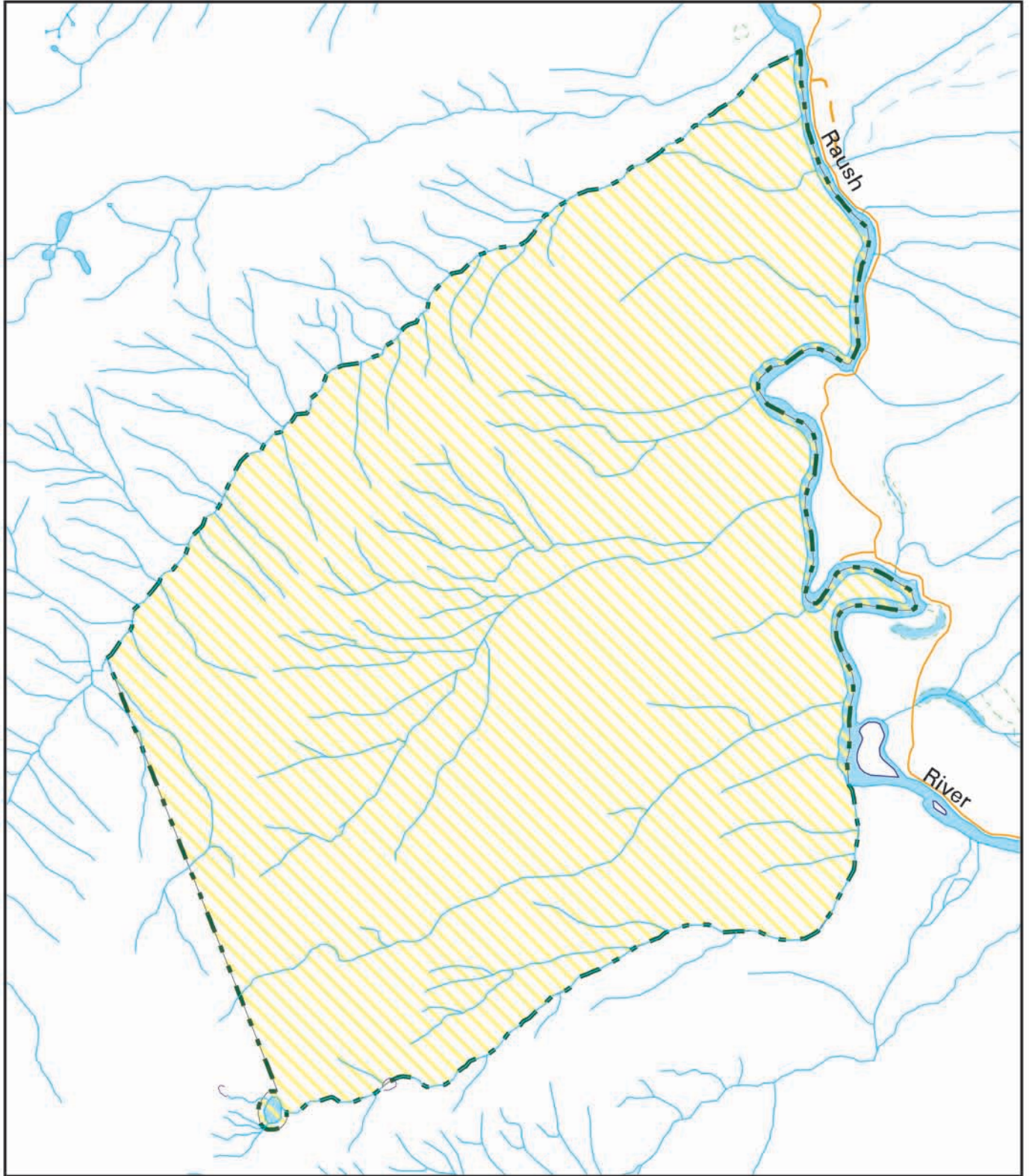
X These areas were recommended for protection by the Robson Valley LRMP.

Area:

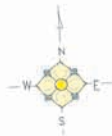
Upper Raush: 5582 ha;
Lower Raush: 1279 ha;
Total: 6861 ha



Date of establishment:

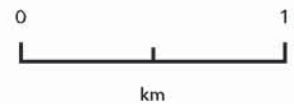
April, 1999



Projection: UTM Zone 10
Datum: NAD83

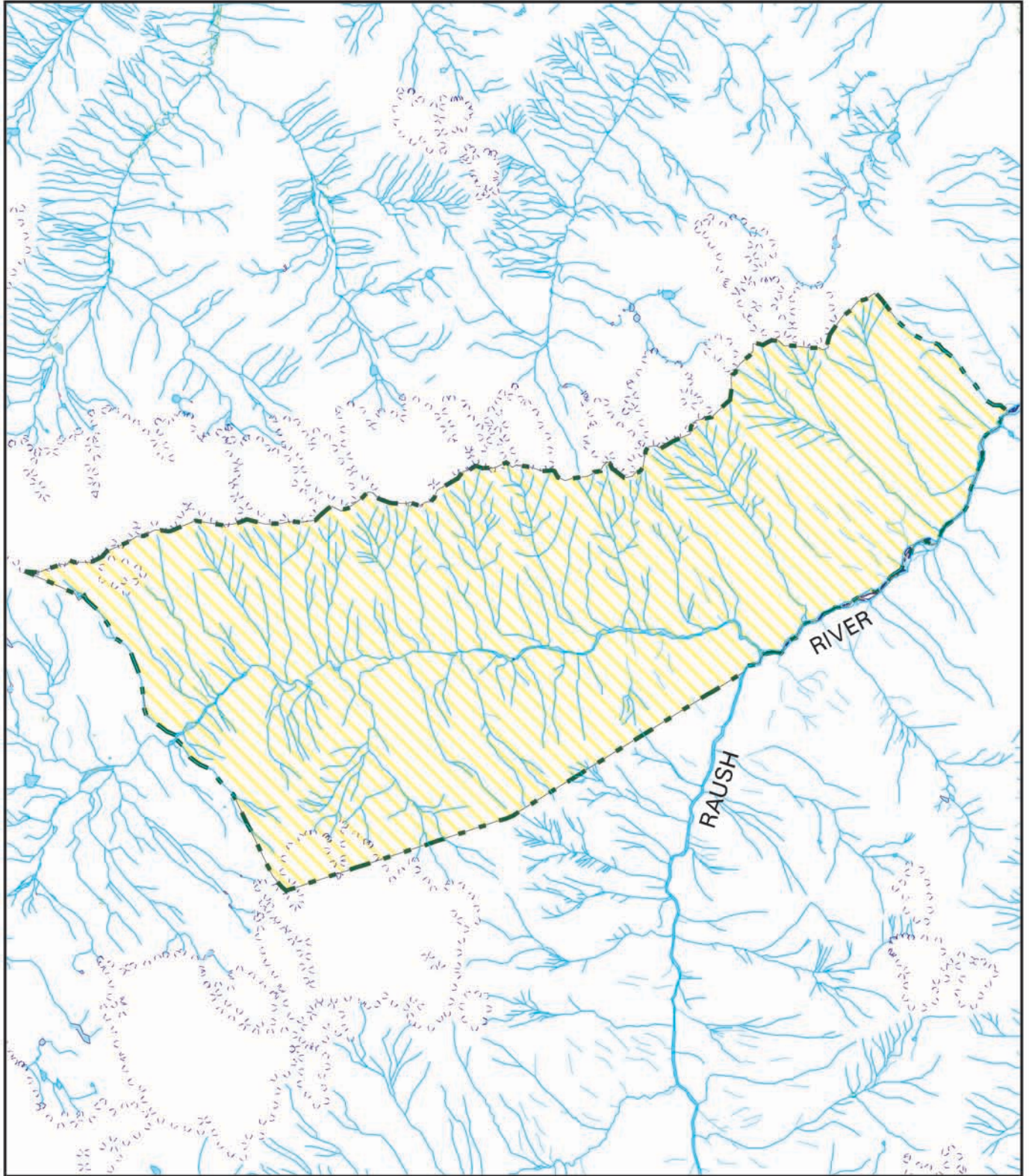


 Nature Recreation
 Protected Area Boundary





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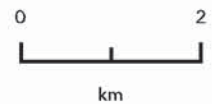
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 Nature Recreation
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